

TORNADO SAFETY

TORNADO! The very word strikes fear in many people. Tornadoes are extremely dangerous. However by following **Tornado Safety Rules**, lives can be saved and injuries prevented. To help the public prepare for tornado situations, the NWS has adopted a **Watch** and **Warning** program.

Tornado Watch: This means that conditions are favorable for tornado development. This is the time to prepare. Keep alert by listening to NOAA Weather Radio, or the commercial media for the latest weather information.

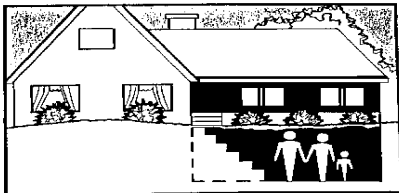
Tornado Warning: This means a tornado has been sighted or indicated by radar. People in the path of the storm should take immediate life saving action.

In schools, hospitals, factories, shopping centers and other public places: Move to designated shelter areas. Interior hallways on the lowest level are best. Stay away from windows and out of auditoriums, gymnasiums, or structures with large free span roofs.

In Vehicles: Do not try to outrun a tornado. Seek shelter in a substantial building. Abandon your vehicle if necessary and hide in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head.

Tornado Myths

- Myth: Areas near rivers, lakes and mountains are safe from tornadoes.
Fact: No place is safe from tornadoes. They can cross rivers, travel up mountains, and roar through valleys
Myth: Low pressure with a tornado causes buildings to "explode" as the tornado passes overhead.
Fact: Violent winds and debris slamming into buildings cause most structural damage.
Myth: Windows should be opened before a tornado to equalize pressure and minimize damage.
Fact: Opening windows allows damaging winds to enter the structure. Leave the windows alone.



With Basement

- ! Basement is the safest place
- ! Avoid windows and chimneys
- ! Hide under furniture or stairwells
- ! Protect your head



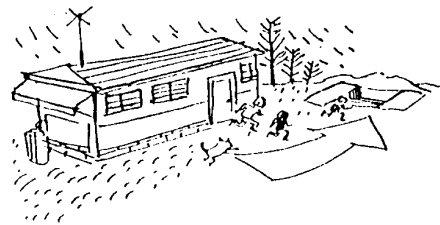
Without Basement

- ! Seek lowest level, central portion
- ! Small room, closet or hallway
- ! Avoid exterior walls and windows
- ! Protect your head



Multi-Family

- ! Seek lowest level, central portion
- ! Small room, closet, or hallway
- ! Avoid exterior walls and windows
- ! Protect your head



Mobile Homes

- ! Evacuation is a must
- ! Seek shelter in a permanent structure
- ! If necessary, go to a low spot, such as a ditch or ravine
- ! Protect your head